

# **Preparing Long Beach Children for the Future: A Community Plan for Shaping the Early Care and Education System (2003-2008)**

A Progress Report and  
Summary of Accomplishments To Date  
(2003 -2007)

City of Long Beach  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Prepared by  
Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee  
An ad hoc committee of the Board of Health and Human Services

August 2007



## **Early Care and Education**

City of Long Beach, Department of Health and Human Services



On behalf of the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee, I am honored to present this annual report on the status of "*Preparing Long Beach Children for the Future: A Community Plan for Shaping the Early Care and Education System (2003-2008)*." This comprehensive summary demonstrates the dedication and commitment to ensuring the highest quality of life and education for children living in Long Beach.

We would like to recognize the volunteer and advocacy efforts on part of the community for implementing the plan. The lead charge in implementing the plan has been credited to directors of local child programs, family child care providers, the local school district, institutions of higher learning, state and county agencies, and nonprofit social services agencies, all of whom spend untold hours above and beyond their regular work weeks. They have provided time, energy and their own personal resources, financial and otherwise, to ensure the successful and timely implementation of the activities in the plan.

As a result, this plan has become more than a document. It has become a living, breathing philosophy that will continue to grow far beyond the original five-year time frame. It has sparked a momentum in the community that will impact children far beyond its original scope.

This plan would not be possible without the support of former Mayor Beverly O'Neill; the Long Beach City Council; Ron Arias, the Director of the Department of Health and Human Services; Corinne Schneider, Bureau Manager of Human and Social Services; and Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, the City's Child Care Coordinator. The City's dedication to this plan attests to the importance we place on the youngest members of our community.

Thank you for your ongoing endeavors to ensure all children in Long Beach grow up healthy, safe and educated.

Sincerely



Luanne Mauro-Atkinson, Chair  
Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>Letter From the Early Care and Education Chair</b>	<b>Intro</b>
<b>What This Report Covers</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>The Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Enhancing Quality</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Increasing Capacity</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Developing Resources</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>2007 to 2008: What's Next?</b>	<b>20</b>

### APPENDIX

<b>A. Identifying Children Needing Child Care in Long Beach</b>	<b>A-1</b>
<b>B. Infant and Toddler Child Care Data by Long Beach Zip Code (Birth to Two Years Old)</b>	<b>B-1</b>
<b>C. Pre-School Data by Long Beach Zip Code (Three to Five Years Old)</b>	<b>C-1</b>
<b>D. Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee Meeting Schedule 2008</b>	<b>D-1</b>

## WHAT THIS REPORT COVERS

This report documents progress made in implementing *Preparing Long Beach Children for the Future: A Community Plan for Shaping the Early Care and Education System (2003-2008)*. The Community Plan was originally adopted by Long Beach City Council in July of 2003 and is a direct outcome of Goal 3 of the *Long Beach Strategic Plan – 2010*, which stated: Make Sure That Every Child Enters School Ready to Learn.

The Community Plan is organized around three strategic directions:

- Enhancing Quality:** To improve the quality of early care and education for all children ages birth to 12.
- Increasing Capacity:** To increase the supply of and accessibility to quality early care and education for children ages birth to 12.
- Developing Resources:** To develop and leverage resources – financial, human, and technological – from public and private sectors for quality early care and education for children ages birth to 12.

Implementation of the Community Plan was tasked to the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee, an ad hoc committee of the Board of Health and Human Services. The City's Child Care Coordinator provides leadership, coordination and support to the implementation activities.

This report is organized by the three strategic directions and lists accomplishments as well as works in progress.

A planning retreat was held in January 2007 to identify new opportunities and challenges and to set priorities for the coming year. The proceedings of this retreat are summarized in the last section of this report.

### The History of Early Care and Education in Long Beach

Leadership in the City of Long Beach has long understood the critical relationship between community investments and community returns: for children to become successful, responsible and contributing members of the community, they must have access to excellent systems of early care and education programs within the community. Over the last fifteen years, the City of Long Beach has demonstrated a commitment to this philosophy:



- In December of 1987, the Long Beach City Council adopted a child care policy that states, in part, *“The City Council of the City of Long Beach expressed a commitment on the part of the City of Long Beach to work to expand child care services throughout the City by assuming a leadership role in promoting a coordinated effort among parents, employers, child care providers, employee organizations, schools, private sector developers, business and community leaders, and government officials.”*
- In April of 1999, the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services prepared and released Report on Child Care in Long Beach. The report provides an overview of the current system of child care services in Long Beach and identified preliminary areas of need with specific consideration for accessibility, quality, affordability, and children with special needs.
- On June 20, 2000, the City Council adopted the Long Beach Strategic Plan – 2010, which was shaped by five citizen task forces, including the Education and Youth Task Force. The Education and Youth Task Force included among its recommended goals and action steps a rigorous agenda for early care and education in Long Beach.
- Beginning in April 2001, the City’s Child Care Coordinator convened a task force representing the diversity of Long Beach with a vested interest in quality early care and education. Included were child care and development representatives, post-secondary educators, health and human service providers, parents, business and development leaders, city government officials, and community advocates. The express purpose of the task force was to guide and inform the development of an early care and education plan to be implemented through community partnerships over the next five years. The Task Force’s efforts contributed greatly to the development of the Community Plan for Shaping the System [2003-2008].

The Community Plan serves as a blueprint for action by the local community to invest in a system-wide approach that promotes nurturing and enriching environments during early childhood and supports lifelong learning skills in children birth to age 12. The Plan reflects a shared community vision for working collaboratively to meet the needs of families while parents are working, attending school or desiring out-of-home enrichment activities for their children, and to provide caring and stimulating environments that enable children to learn and reach their full potential.

Efforts to implement the Community Plan are guided by the City’s Child Care Coordinator through the Department of Health and Human Services. The Community Plan has been created as a living document, to be reviewed on a regular basis and modified as needed as the social, political and funding climates evolve in the coming years.



## The Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee: Who Are We?

**Our Vision:** The Long Beach community envisions a future in which all children in Long Beach will be cared for and educated in environments that:

- are stable, safe, healthy, enriching and nurturing;
- promote lifelong learning, emotional security and family empowerment and support;
- enable children to learn and to reach their full potential;
- embrace diversity; and
- are fostered actively and supported collaboratively as a priority by all sectors of the community

**Our Mission:** To further the early care and education of all children in Long Beach by enhancing the quality of services; building our capacity to meet the needs of families; and expanding the base of resources.

**Who We Are:** The Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee is an ad hoc committee of the Board of Health and Human Services. We are an evolution of the Long Beach Early Care and Education Master Plan Task Force, which guided and informed the development of the early care and education plan, **Preparing Long Beach Children for the Future: A Community Plan for Shaping the Early Care and Education System (2003-2008)**. The Committee is charged with crafting and carrying out implementation strategies directly related to the goals, objectives and categories outlined in the Community Plan. The motto - Our Children, Our Community - was created and adopted by the original Task Force to represent their vision for the children of our community and our community's duty to our children.



Committee members represent a broad base of early childhood educators, advocates and caregivers of young children. All committee members are volunteers, and the committee receives no funding for operational support but must raise funds for each of its projects. Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Child Care Coordinator for the City of Long Beach, staffs the committee. Committee members represent the following agencies:

- California State University Long Beach (CSULB)
- Cambodian Association of America
- Children Today, Inc.
- Children's Home Society of California
- Comprehensive Child Development, Inc.
- CSULB Project Readiness and Early Activities for Children from the Heart (REACH)
- Harbor Regional Center
- Long Beach Child Care Network
- Long Beach City College (LBCC)
- LBCC Child Development Centers
- Long Beach Commission on Youth and Children
- Long Beach Community Improvement League
- Long Beach Day Nursery
- Long Beach Family Literacy
- Long Beach Public Library
- Long Beach Public Library Foundation
- Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD)
- LBUSD Child Development Centers
- LBUSD Early Start
- LBUSD Head Start
- LBUSD Reading Readiness and Preparation Project
- Miller Children's Hospital
- National Council of Jewish Women
- PeacePartners, Inc.
- Pretend City
- Resurrection Lutheran Preschool
- Un Mundo de Amigos Preschool
- West ED
- Williams Child Care
- YMCA of Greater Long Beach
- Young Horizons

The Executive Board is comprised of recognized leaders in the early care and education community. The 2007-2009 Executive Board:

Chair:	Luanne Mauro-Atkinson, LBUSD Head Start
Vice Chair:	Patrice Wong, Long Beach Day Nursery
Secretary:	Chantal Lamourelle-Sims, CSULB Project REACH
Treasurer:	Sarah M. Soriano, Young Horizons
Member at Large:	Joelle L. Landazabal, Children's Home Society of California

**Enhancing Quality: To improve the quality of early care and education for all children ages birth to 12.**

### **I. A. Objective Category: Programs and Services**

**Goal 1: To recognize the importance of children's language, social, emotional, cognitive and physical development to emerging literacy and school readiness.**

#### **Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ The Long Beach Public Library and the Long Beach Public Library Foundation has partnered with 70 ECE providers to bring "Raising a Reader," a nationally recognized early literacy program, to over 1,800 children and their families, who have collectively checked out 50,000 books. Additionally, 3,500 preschool library cards have been issued through the Library's partnership with the ECE community.
- ✓ In 2005, an Early Care Seamless Education Task Force was formed in partnership with LBUSD and Superintendent Chris Steinhauser, marking the first time that the ECE community and the School District had ever formally worked together on school readiness.

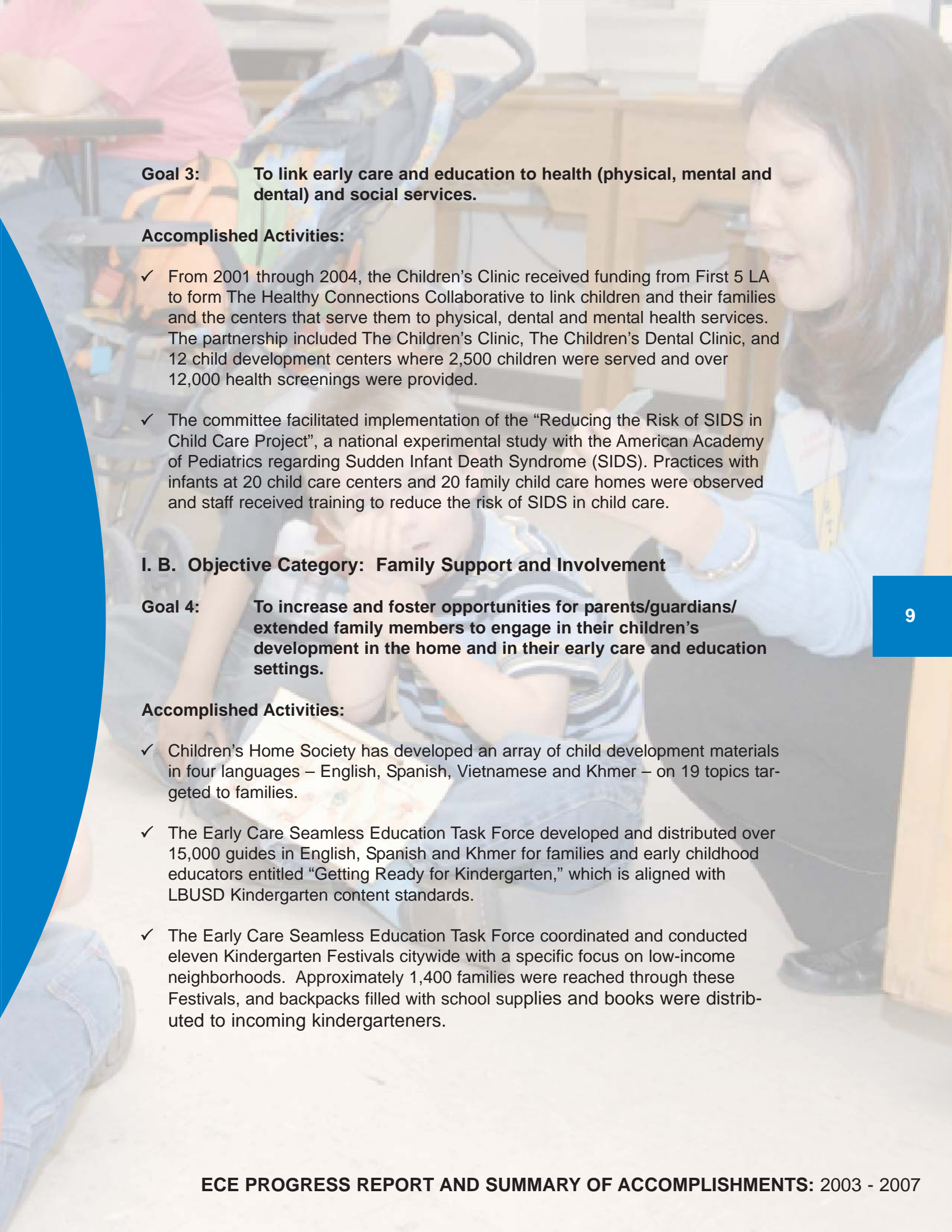
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**Goal 2: To promote the use of measurable standards to build quality programs and increase the number of accredited licensed centers and family child care homes.**

#### **Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ Five California Department of Education-contracted child development centers and 34 family child care homes participated in the California Association for the Education of Young Children's Facility Accreditation Project. In 2003, there were only 7 accredited child care centers in Long Beach. As of January 2007, there are 16 centers and 18 family child care providers who have achieved or maintained national accreditation.
- ✓ Over 225 license-exempt child care providers received education and training to improve the quality of their environments, upgrade their curricula, connect families and children to health services, and ultimately become licensed through Long Beach City College's Good Beginnings Never End project, which focused initially on 90813 and adjacent communities, then expanded to 90806.





**Goal 3: To link early care and education to health (physical, mental and dental) and social services.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ From 2001 through 2004, the Children's Clinic received funding from First 5 LA to form The Healthy Connections Collaborative to link children and their families and the centers that serve them to physical, dental and mental health services. The partnership included The Children's Clinic, The Children's Dental Clinic, and 12 child development centers where 2,500 children were served and over 12,000 health screenings were provided.
- ✓ The committee facilitated implementation of the "Reducing the Risk of SIDS in Child Care Project", a national experimental study with the American Academy of Pediatrics regarding Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). Practices with infants at 20 child care centers and 20 family child care homes were observed and staff received training to reduce the risk of SIDS in child care.

**I. B. Objective Category: Family Support and Involvement**

**Goal 4: To increase and foster opportunities for parents/guardians/extended family members to engage in their children's development in the home and in their early care and education settings.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ Children's Home Society has developed an array of child development materials in four languages – English, Spanish, Vietnamese and Khmer – on 19 topics targeted to families.
- ✓ The Early Care Seamless Education Task Force developed and distributed over 15,000 guides in English, Spanish and Khmer for families and early childhood educators entitled "Getting Ready for Kindergarten," which is aligned with LBUSD Kindergarten content standards.
- ✓ The Early Care Seamless Education Task Force coordinated and conducted eleven Kindergarten Festivals citywide with a specific focus on low-income neighborhoods. Approximately 1,400 families were reached through these Festivals, and backpacks filled with school supplies and books were distributed to incoming kindergarteners.

- ✓ Representatives from the ECE Committee presented a workshop at the California Association of Education of Young Children Conference in San Jose in March 2007 on the Kindergarten Festivals as an example of best practices in school readiness. The workshop addressed the process, level of collaboration, and commitment to school readiness demonstrated by our city.
- ✓ The City of Long Beach Child Care website lists and provides links to information targeted to Long Beach families seeking quality early care and education services for their children. The website also links families to websites containing activity ideas, songs and crafts.

### **I. C. Objective Category: Professional and Workforce Development**

**Goal 5: To advocate for the adequate compensation, recruitment, professional development and retention of qualified, trained educators.**

#### **Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ Forty-six teachers representing seven child development centers and Head Start sites have completed training and technical assistance from WestEd: Program for Infant Toddler Caregivers (PITC), which provides intensive, on-site training using a responsive relationship-based approach. Additionally, 27 family child care groups, averaging seven people per group, have completed the training as well.
- ✓ Through the Committee's ongoing information and referral networks, 300 ECE teachers in Long Beach have received education stipends ranging from \$2,000 to \$3,000 from the highly competitive Los Angeles County "Investing in Early Educators" program through 2006. The program is designed to assist in retaining qualified staff in child development programs.
- ✓ The weekly email updates provided by the Child Care Coordinator informs members of not only stipend and scholarship opportunities but also training opportunities, leading to a higher educated, more qualified workforce. The Committee has collaborated with the Long Beach City College Childhood Mentor Program to facilitate the first Child Care Director and Site Supervisor Networking Meeting to provide peer support and education to increase quality standards in child care settings. ECE will continue co-host these networking meetings on a quarterly basis.
- ✓ Long Beach City College (LBCC) is committed to its offerings of Associate in Arts (A.A.) degrees in early childhood education, child development, school-age care, and special education assistant. LBCC received a grant from the Child Development Consortium that funds college units for early educators currently working in licensed early care and education programs. These funds are also

available to pay for fingerprinting, background checks, and credential fees for educators applying for their child development permit from the Child Development Training Consortium under the California Department of Education, Child Development Division. Additionally, LBCC was awarded a grant from the United States Development of Agriculture California Nutrition Network to support nutrition education for low-income parents with children enrolled in their centers.

- ✓ LBCC's Workforce Development Department has developed and implemented "Careers in Child care" as a component of its CalWORKs (California Work Opportunities and Responsibility to Kids) program. Participants are provided the necessary classes and training to become child development aides, and receive workplace experience through placement in child development centers and preschools for a limited numbers of hours per week. Providers who act as placement sites receive financial assistance with the wages paid to these students.
- ✓ California State University Long Beach (CSULB) is actively involved with the State's Intersegmental Major Preparation Articulated Curriculum (IMPAC) project in Child Development. This is a faculty-designed and faculty-run project which focuses on ensuring that students transferring from California Community Colleges to University of California (UC) and CSU (California State University) institutions will be properly prepared for progressing in their chosen major immediately upon transfer. The project enables faculty to address potential problems or established curriculum requirements and procedures that may impede the smooth progress of a transferring student.
- ✓ Project Readiness and Early Activities for Children from the Heart (REACH), based at California State University Long Beach/Department of Family and Consumer Sciences, has supported the professional growth of over 75 teachers since its inception in 2002. Initially funded by the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, the project focused on increasing the retention of early childhood teachers in zip code 90806. Through this project 60 teachers obtained their Associates Degree; 32 received their Bachelors Degree and 5 received their Masters Degree.

#### **Project REACH Outcomes 2002 - 2007**

	<b>First Year</b>	<b>Second Year</b>	<b>Third Year</b>
<b>AA Degree</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>BA/BS Degree</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>MA/MS Degree</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>



**Increasing Capacity: To increase the supply of and accessibility to quality care and education for children ages birth to 12.**

## **II. A. Objective Category: Supply**

**Goal 1: To support the retention and expansion of existing early care and education programs.**

### **Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ Families in Good Health, a program of St. Mary Medical Center, established the Long Beach Child Care Empowerment Project, which provided technical assistance and training to family child care providers in the Southeast Asian community to increase and maintain the availability of licensed family child care homes that are culturally and linguistically competent to meet the needs of children in the Cambodian, Lao and Hmong communities. Thirty-nine participants completed this 26-week training course, which also included training on school readiness, child development, and quality child care, as well as licensing and business development. Twelve of these providers went on to become licensed family child care providers. They, along with six other already-licensed providers, completed additional advanced training.
- ✓ The Child Care Training Institute, a program of the Los Angeles County Office of Education, has hosted 29 semi-monthly workshops in Long Beach at various community-based sites for licensed family care providers in both English and Spanish. Attendance at these workshops ranges from 10 to 30 people each. Two workshops were held in the Khmer language as well.
- ✓ Children's Home Society of California (CHS) offers monthly New Provider Start Up orientations in Spanish and English to individuals interested in starting family child care homes. CHS also hosts workshops targeted to family child care providers on an array of topics ranging from quality to business strategies to updates on licensing.

**Goal 2: To support the development of new early care and education programs.**

### **Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ The Committee's Capacity Work Group created a handbook for opening a family child care business in the city of Long Beach, including criteria for licensing; fire safety clearances, planning and building issues, including zoning; business licenses; and quality program elements.
- ✓ The Child Care Coordinator assists in the expansion or opening of new child care centers through partnerships with the City's Planning and Building Department.

**Goal 3: To foster development of early care and education programs with an emphasis on building capacity in neighborhoods identified as high need.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ Long Beach City College established its Child Care is Good Business project, an expansion of its Good Beginnings Never End project previously described. This project worked with 70 family child care providers in 'high need' neighborhoods, linking them with business classes and information and technical assistance on home ownership and lead abatement.
- ✓ Since June 2006, the Child Care Coordinator has worked closely with the Executive Director of Un Mundo de Amigos Preschool to secure a facility location in 90813, deemed a high need zip code for child care services. The preschool is schedule to open late 2007 or early 2008 and will provide 120 new preschool spaces in the community.

**Goal 4: To expand the role of employers in meeting the early care and education needs of their workforce.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ The Committee's Quality Work Group created "An Economic Model of Quality Early Care and Education." This model and the accompanying analysis addressed the question "what does quality child care cost?" The model was developed because business representatives on the original Task Force posed the question.
- ✓ The Committee has partnered with the Public Counsel Child Care Law Project to create a plan for sharing this document with the business community.

**II. B. Objective Category: Access**

**Goal 5: To explore and develop opportunities/resources for meeting the early care and education needs of children with special needs (such as physical, emotional, social, language, socioeconomic and/or environmental).**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ The Special Needs Advisory Project (SNAP), coordinated by CHS, is connecting families and their children with special needs to programs and services and building the capacity of child care providers to promote full inclusion.

**Goal 6: To reduce barriers to locating and accessing affordable early care and education services.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ Information on new resources and technical assistance that support increasing capacity to meet the needs of families is posted on the City of Long Beach Child Care website and is also disseminated through email alerts from the Child Care Coordinator.

**Goal 7: To explore opportunities/resources for meeting the early care and education needs of children with occasional mild illnesses.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ Information on meeting the child care needs of children with occasional illnesses is posted on the City of Long Beach Child Care website.

**Goal 8: To assure access to countywide services by Long Beach children and families.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ Data on the supply of and estimated demand for licensed early care and education services in Long Beach is available on the City of Long Beach Child Care website.
- ✓ The City of Long Beach Child Care website also provides links to information on support services, such as referral programs for children with special needs and the federal food program.



**Developing Resources:** To develop and leverage resources – financial, human, and technological – from public and private sectors for quality early care and education for children ages birth to 12.

### **III. A. Objective Category: Financial**

**Goal 1:** To promote early care and education as an important economic development activity for the City of Long Beach.

#### **Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ The Committee's Quality Work Group created "An Economic Model of Quality Early Care and Education." The model and the accompanying analysis addressed the question "what does quality child care cost?" was presented at the California Association for the Education of Young Children in April 2005.
- ✓ The model was also presented at the California Child Development Administrators Association Conference in March 2007.
- ✓ Plans are being developed to present the model to the business community in the City of Long Beach.

**Goal 2:** To facilitate enhancing the quality and increasing the supply of accessible and affordable early care and education programs from government entities, corporations and foundations.

#### **Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ In 2005, priority was given to disseminating information regarding First 5 LA and Los Angeles Universal Preschool funding opportunities. Over \$9.0 million in First 5 LA funds have been awarded to Long Beach organizations benefiting children and families participating in child development centers and family child care programs. As of January 2007, 13 centers and 13 family child care providers have been designated Los Angeles Universal Preschool sites, representing close to 1,000 pre-kindergarten children.
- ✓ Information on local, state, federal and private funding opportunities are posted on the City of Long Beach Child Care website and are also disseminated through email alerts from the Child Care Coordinator.

**Goal 3: To solicit the donation of resources (volunteers, facilities, supplies, technology) to support the expansion and improvement of early care and education.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ Collaborative proposals have successfully resulted in funding from First 5 LA for four projects: Good Beginnings Never End, Healthy Connections, Family Literacy and School Readiness. The partnerships are being used as templates to continue pursuing other grant opportunities by leveraging existing resources.
- ✓ The Early Care and Education Annual Symposia and Kindergarten Festivals are maintained by the donation of supplies and facilities from partnering agencies. The power to support the success of these events comes from volunteers representing the National Council of Jewish Woman, California State University Long Beach, high school students from Long Beach Unified School District and other educational institutions.

**III. B. Objective Category: Human**

**Goal 4: To attract and develop expertise and leadership among various sectors of the Long Beach community to address the broad range of issues facing early care and education.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ The Committee members represent a broad base of early childhood educators, advocates and caregivers of young children.
- ✓ The Committee held four annual Symposia in partnership with A Voice for Long Beach Children (formerly Stand for Children, Long Beach) for early educators and other stakeholders. Topics have included Universal Preschool, school readiness, research on early brain development, and other relevant early education issues. The fourth and most successful Symposium was held March 3, 2007 and focused on quality standards and the need for a consistent quality rating system. Over 250 child care providers, teachers, parents and community members attended the event.
- ✓ In collaboration with Long Beach City College, the Committee has developed a quarterly speakers' bureau for child care center directors and site supervisors to discuss issues and opportunities relating to early care and education. In 2007, over 100 child care center directors and site supervisors have participated in these quarterly events.

**Goal 5: To work in partnership with county, state and federal entities on issues impacting the field of early care and education in Los Angeles County and Long Beach.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ Long Beach was actively represented in First 5 LA's Universal Preschool Advisory and Content Committees in the development of the Universal Preschool Master Plan by Michelle Bell (Children's Home Society), Jo Ann Bernard and Sue Stanley (CSULB), Amy Bigelow (Long Beach Day Nursery), Catherine Scott (Greater Long Beach/Lakewood Family Child Care Association), and Michele Sartell (previous Long Beach Child Care Coordinator).
- ✓ The Committee has ensured active continuous representation on the Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee through the Child Care Coordinator and other local stakeholders. Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Child Care Coordinator, serves on the committee and Patrice Wong (Long Beach Day Nursery) is the current 4th District Appointee (appointed by County Supervisor Don Knabe). Catherine Scott (Greater Long Beach/Lakewood Family Child Care Association), Sarah Soriano (Young Horizons), Michelle Bell (Children's Home Society) and Amy Bigelow (Long Beach Day Nursery) have all served or are currently serving as alternates.
- ✓ Long Beach is actively represented on the Committee for Legislation, a joint committee of the County Child Care Planning Committee and the Policy Roundtable for Child Care. Michele Sartell and Catherine Scott have previously served, while Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth and Patrice Wong continue as members.

**III. C. Objective Category: Technology**

**Goal 6: To identify and develop technology solutions and promote their use in early care and education.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ The Child Care Coordinator developed and managed a weekly email listserv which currently reaches approximately 250 ECE professionals who serve more than 5,000 children and families. The weekly report contains information regarding policy issues, funding, professional development, technical assistance and training, and emerging research.
- ✓ The Child Care Coordinator developed and maintained the City of Long Beach Child Care website. Included are links to ECE-related resources for parents and families as well as professionals. This was launched in 2003 and is updated continuously.



### **III. D. Objective: Implementation and Evaluation**

**Goal 7:** To facilitate the formation of partnerships and networks to discuss and address ongoing and emerging issues and opportunities in early care and education.

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ The Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee was officially formed as an ad hoc committee of the Board of Health in April 2004 to guide implementation of the Community Plan. Recently it established an Executive Board and formal policies and procedures. The Committee meets monthly to assure the ongoing implementation of the plan.

**Goal 8:** To advocate at all levels for improved conditions in early care and education.

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ The Committee, with coordination and support of the Child Care Coordinator, provides annual input and direction to the City's federal and state legislative agenda.
- ✓ The Committee received the "Women of Distinction" award from Soroptimist International of Long Beach in 2007 for an organization advancing the status of women.

**Goal 9:** To generate heightened public awareness and facilitate action on issues and opportunities in quality early care and education.

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ The Committee publicly recognized then-Mayor Beverly O'Neill for her support and advocacy on behalf of children and families in 2006.
- ✓ The Committee publicly supported Mayor Bob Foster in his efforts to reinstate library hours and services to 2003 levels.
- ✓ The Committee's work on the Early Care Seamless Education Task Force and resultant Kindergarten Festivals was profiled in "Time for School: Transitioning from Child Development to Kindergarten," prepared by the Los Angeles County Policy Roundtable for Child Care and the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

- ✓ December 2006, the Press Telegram published the Early Care and Education Committee's letter to the editor educating the public on quality child care by responding to the article "Day-Care Dilemma."
- ✓ June 14 2007, Charter Cable aired the Early Education Component of the Enough is Enough Campaign to educate the public that quality child care serves as preventive measure of youth and gang violence later in life.
- ✓ June 15, 2007, the Press Telegram printed the story "Early Education is a 'Win-Win' Situation" highlighting the long-term benefits of quality child care.
- ✓ July 22, 2007, the Press Telegram printed the story "Day Care Rating: Parents Counting on Quality" which focused on the STEPS to Excellence Program that will roll out in nine target communities throughout Los Angeles County, the City of Long Beach being one of them. STEP will provide parents with clear, concise information on the quality of child care centers and family child care homes.
- ✓ August 6, 2007, the Grunion Gazette and Downtown Gazette included an article entitled "City Initiatives Ease Childhood Transition to Kindergarten" that highlighted the citywide collaborative efforts supporting school readiness for children and families in Long Beach.

**Goal 10: To measure progress in furthering the early care and education of all children in Long Beach.**

**Accomplished Activities:**

- ✓ The Committee holds an annual retreat to evaluate the status of the plan and focus on continued implementation.
- ✓ The Committee annually updates the Board of Health, the Commission on Youth and Children, and the Long Beach City Council on the progress of the Community Plan.
- ✓ The Child Care Coordinator provides annual reports of the need for child care in the City of Long Beach by zip code. This information is included in this report.

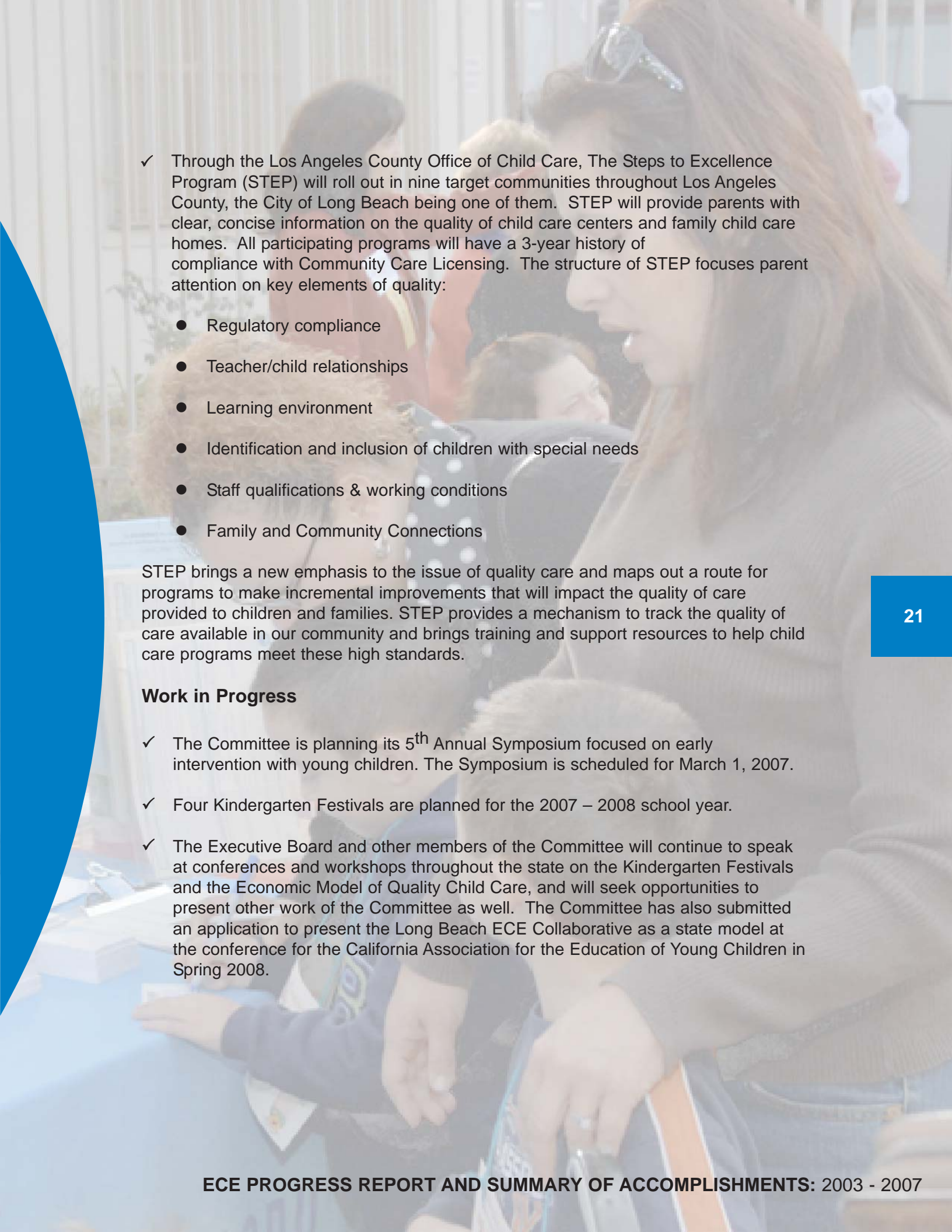
### Work Plan

- ✓ At the January 2007 ECE retreat, Committee members articulated potential tasks and activities associated with each of the priority goals and attached a preliminary time frame for each of the tasks and activities. The Committee also assigned each task and activity to the appropriate Committee workgroups, in essence creating the Committee's 2007-2008 work plan.
- ✓ Over the course of this year, workgroups will be focusing on the tasks and activities identified during the retreat in order to meet the priority goals of the Committee. Workgroups will meet as often as required to complete the scope of work, while the Committee will meet monthly to oversee and monitor progress on all work.

### Challenges and Opportunities

- ✓ The National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) has been in the process of strengthening its accreditation standards for the past few years, and just recently released its updated process. Centers embarking on achieving or maintaining their accreditation will be experiencing a more rigorous, lengthy and costly process before they are awarded accreditation. While the Committee welcomes the more rigorous standards, it also recognizes that support services, including technical assistance and funding, will be critical to ensure that centers maximize their ability to meet the accreditation standards.
- ✓ While recent Preschool for All initiatives have floundered on the ballot, the Committee recognizes that universal preschool – inclusive of but not limited to the Los Angeles Universal Preschool (LAUP) program – will continue to be a driving force for increasing quality throughout the early care and education system, particularly for pre-kindergarten programs. And while the Committee is supportive of pre-kindergarten programs and efforts to ready all four-year-olds for school, it also recognizes the growing importance of quality early care and education for children from birth to three as well.



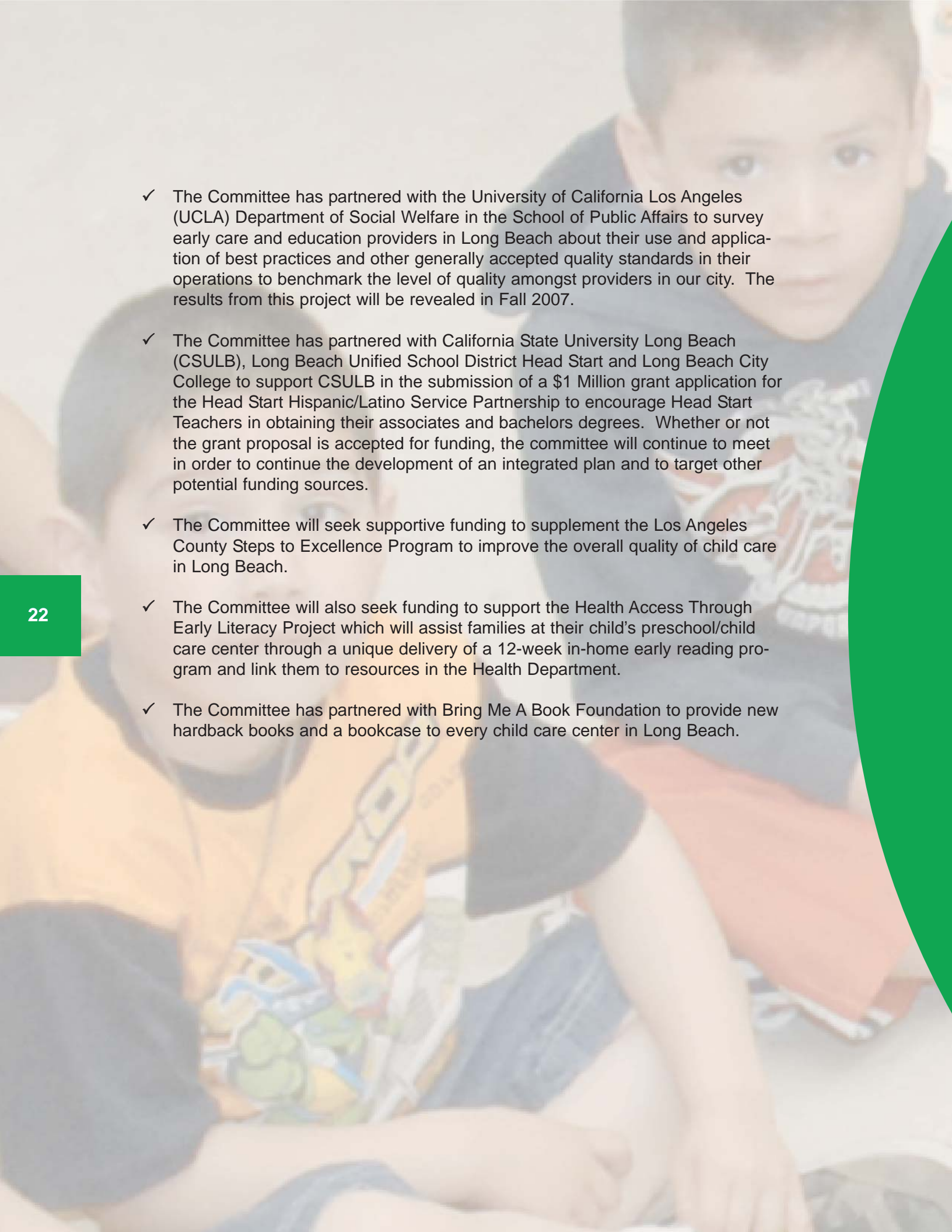
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- ✓ Through the Los Angeles County Office of Child Care, The Steps to Excellence Program (STEP) will roll out in nine target communities throughout Los Angeles County, the City of Long Beach being one of them. STEP will provide parents with clear, concise information on the quality of child care centers and family child care homes. All participating programs will have a 3-year history of compliance with Community Care Licensing. The structure of STEP focuses parent attention on key elements of quality:

- Regulatory compliance
- Teacher/child relationships
- Learning environment
- Identification and inclusion of children with special needs
- Staff qualifications & working conditions
- Family and Community Connections

STEP brings a new emphasis to the issue of quality care and maps out a route for programs to make incremental improvements that will impact the quality of care provided to children and families. STEP provides a mechanism to track the quality of care available in our community and brings training and support resources to help child care programs meet these high standards.

### **Work in Progress**

- ✓ The Committee is planning its 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Symposium focused on early intervention with young children. The Symposium is scheduled for March 1, 2007.
- ✓ Four Kindergarten Festivals are planned for the 2007 – 2008 school year.
- ✓ The Executive Board and other members of the Committee will continue to speak at conferences and workshops throughout the state on the Kindergarten Festivals and the Economic Model of Quality Child Care, and will seek opportunities to present other work of the Committee as well. The Committee has also submitted an application to present the Long Beach ECE Collaborative as a state model at the conference for the California Association for the Education of Young Children in Spring 2008.

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- ✓ The Committee has partnered with the University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Department of Social Welfare in the School of Public Affairs to survey early care and education providers in Long Beach about their use and application of best practices and other generally accepted quality standards in their operations to benchmark the level of quality amongst providers in our city. The results from this project will be revealed in Fall 2007.
  - ✓ The Committee has partnered with California State University Long Beach (CSULB), Long Beach Unified School District Head Start and Long Beach City College to support CSULB in the submission of a \$1 Million grant application for the Head Start Hispanic/Latino Service Partnership to encourage Head Start Teachers in obtaining their associates and bachelors degrees. Whether or not the grant proposal is accepted for funding, the committee will continue to meet in order to continue the development of an integrated plan and to target other potential funding sources.
  - ✓ The Committee will seek supportive funding to supplement the Los Angeles County Steps to Excellence Program to improve the overall quality of child care in Long Beach.
  - ✓ The Committee will also seek funding to support the Health Access Through Early Literacy Project which will assist families at their child's preschool/child care center through a unique delivery of a 12-week in-home early reading program and link them to resources in the Health Department.
  - ✓ The Committee has partnered with Bring Me A Book Foundation to provide new hardback books and a bookcase to every child care center in Long Beach.

## A-1. Identifying Children Needing Child Care in Long Beach

<b>Children Needing Child Care Services in Long Beach</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2006</b>
Estimated number of children residing in Long Beach, Birth - 12	102,154	120,395
Estimated number of children, Birth - 5	38,587	54,855
Demand for child care (Number of children with working parents)	12,688	28,468
Licensed capacity	7,542	14,011
Licensed exempt care*	N/A	10,407
<b>Shortfall for Licensed Child Care</b>	<b>-5,145</b>	<b>-14,457</b>
Estimated number of children, 6 - 12	63,567	65,540
Demand for before/after school programs (Number of children with working parents)	18,141	35,066
Licensed capacity	3,396	4,228
Licensed exempt care*	N/A	25,772
<b>Shortfall for Before/After School Programs</b>	<b>-14,745</b>	<b>-30,838</b>
Estimated number of children, Birth - 12	102,154	120,395
Demand for child care (Number of children with working parents)	30,829	63,534
Licensed capacity	10,938	39,783
Licensed exempt care	N/A	36,179
<b>Shortfall for Licensed Child Care and Before/After School Programs</b>	<b>-19,890</b>	<b>-45,295</b>

Data Source: Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee;  
2006 Child Care Needs Assessment Reporting Tool

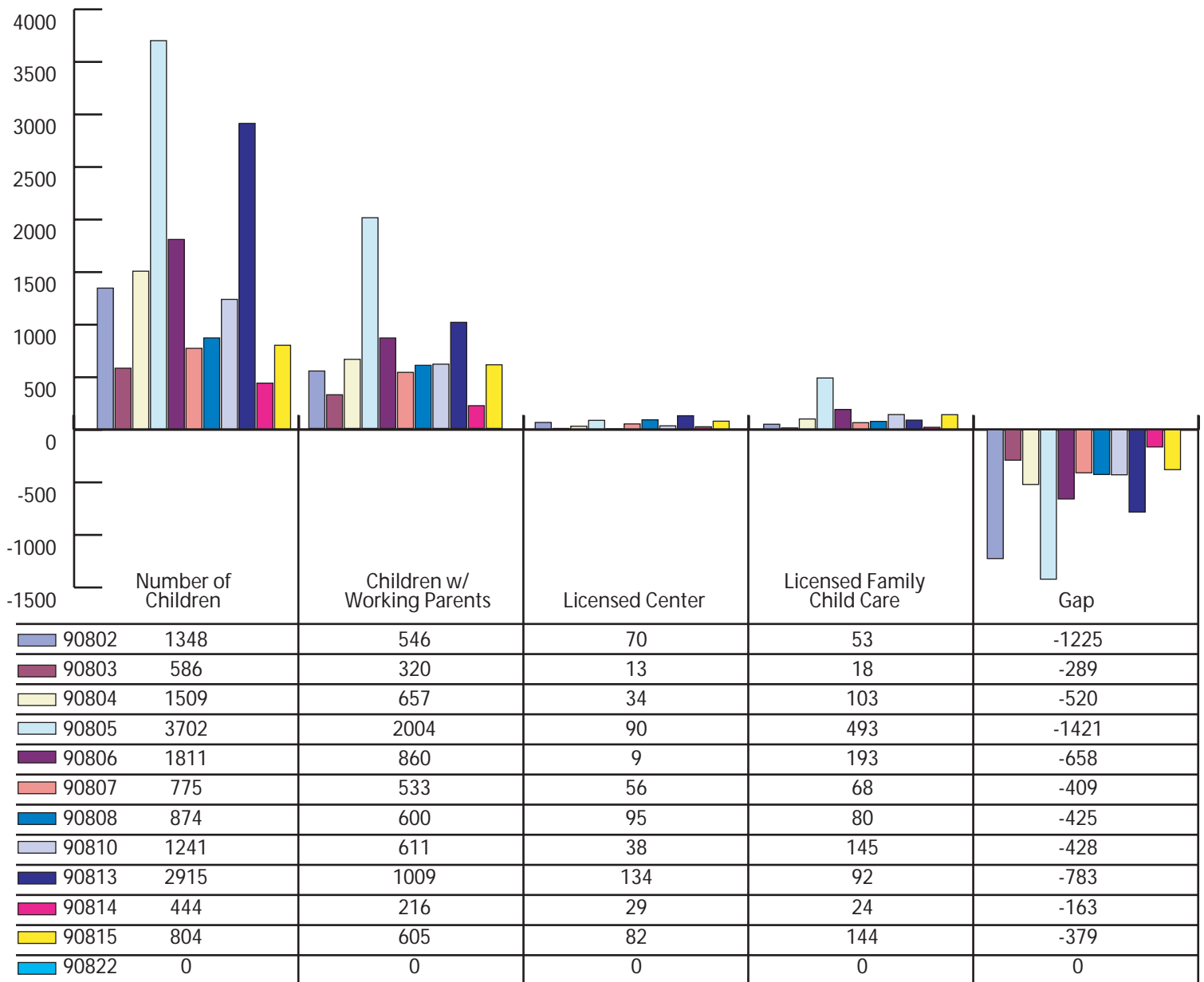
\* Licensed exempt care is defined as:

- A person that cares for their own children or those of a relative and children from only one other family
- Public and private schools that operate a program before and/or after school for school-age children

Source: California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing Division, [www.cclcd.ca.gov](http://www.cclcd.ca.gov)

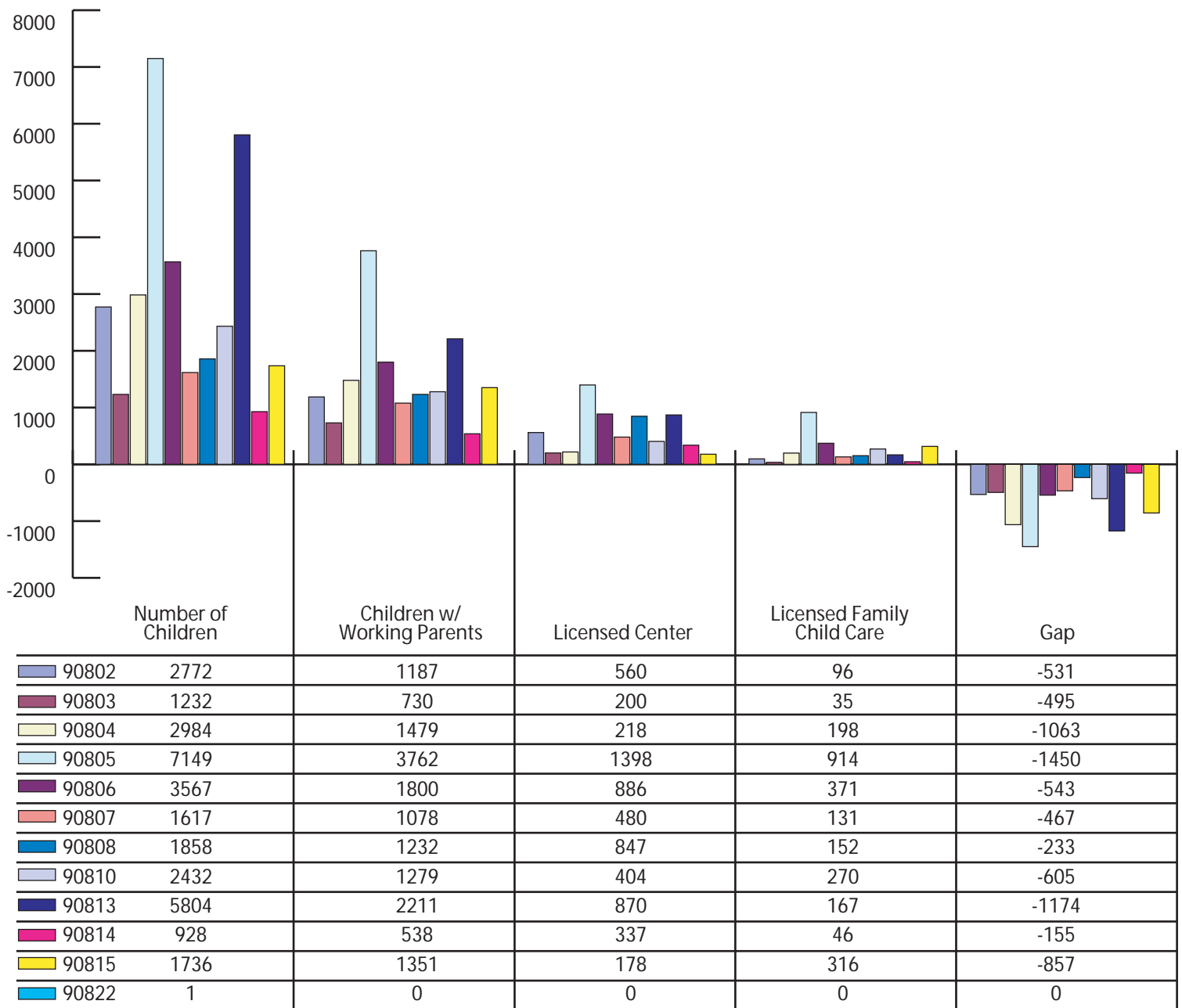


## B-1. Infant and Toddler Child Care Data by Long Beach Zip Code (Birth to Two Years Old)



Data Source: Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee;  
2006 Child Care Needs Assessment Reporting Tool

## C-1. Pre-School Data by Long Beach Zip Code (Three to Five Years Old)



Data Source: Los Angeles County Child Care Planning Committee;  
2006 Child Care Needs Assessment Reporting Tool

**D-1. Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee Meeting Schedule 2008**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Location</b>
Annual Retreat January 18, 2008	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	Children's Home Society of California 330 Golden Shore, Suite 20
February 1, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
March 7, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
April 4, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
May 2, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
June 6, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
July 2008	No Meeting	
August 1, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
September 5, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
October 3, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
November 7, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.
December 5, 2008	11:30 am to 1:00 pm	Miller Family Health Education Center 3820 Cherry Ave.



Tracy Colunga Hollingsworth, Child Care Coordinator, and the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee Executive Board prepared this report.

Design and graphics created by Sue Reveche, Graphics Specialist, City of Long Beach.

For more information about The Community Plan and the Long Beach Early Care and Education Committee please contact:

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